

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing a location-based service, comprising:
- creating a database of broadcast radio stations;
 - maintaining, for each broadcast radio station, a schedule of program information; and
 - maintaining for each broadcast radio station, geographic boundary information that defines a boundary within which a pre-determined radiated energy pattern is found.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the program information includes a program classification code.
3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising,
- receiving, from a location-aware product, information representative of the geographic position of the location-aware product to within a pre-determined accuracy;
 - receiving from the location-aware product one or more program classification codes; and
 - communicating one or more station tuning codes to the location-aware product;
- wherein the tuning codes are associated with broadcast radio stations.

1 4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising receiving sensitivity data from the
2 location-aware product.

1 5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising receiving selectivity data from the
2 location-aware product.

1 6. The method of Claim 3, further comprising receiving model information from
2 the location-aware product.

1 7. The method of Claim 3, further comprising determining which one or more
2 station tuning codes to communicate to the location-aware product; and wherein
3 determining is based, at least in part, on one or more sensitivity characteristics of the
4 location-aware product.

1 8. The method of Claim 3, further comprising determining which one or more
2 station tuning codes to communicate to the location-aware product; and wherein
3 determining is based, at least in part, on one or more selectivity characteristics of the
4 location-aware product.

1 9. The method of Claim 6, further comprising determining which one or more
2 station tuning codes to communicate to the location-aware product; and wherein

3 determining is based, at least in part, on one or more sensitivity or selectivity
4 characteristics of the location-aware product, the one or more sensitivity or
5 selectivity characteristics being derived from the model information.

1 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the location-based services provider derives
2 the sensitivity or selectivity information from the model information by accessing a
3 database.

1 11. The method of Claim 6, further comprising determining the sensitivity and
2 selectivity characteristics of the location-aware product based on the received model
3 information.

1 12. The method of Claim 3, further comprising determining the time of day at the
2 geographic position of the location-aware product; and determining which one or
3 more station tuning codes to communicate to the location-aware product based, at
4 least in part, on the geographic position and the time of day at the geographic
5 position.

1 13. A method of operating a location-aware mobile radio, comprising:
2 a) providing a frequency assignment to each of a plurality of user input
3 interfaces, each assignment based, at least in part, on a first geographical zone;

4 b) determining whether a present location of the location-aware mobile radio
5 is within a second geographical zone;

6 c) providing, if the determination in (b) is affirmative, a second frequency
7 assignment to at least one of the plurality of user input interfaces.

1 14. The method of Claim 14, wherein the user input interface comprises a button.

1 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the user input interface comprises a switch.

1 16. The method of Claim 13, wherein the second geographical zone overlaps the
2 first geographical zone.

1 17. A location-aware radio, comprising:
2 a radio adapted to receive and demodulate signals from a plurality of
3 broadcast radio stations, and to produce at least an audio output;
4 a location information resource disposed in a known spatial relationship to the
5 radio; and
6 a transceiver, coupled to the location-information resource, and coupled to
7 the radio, the transceiver adapted to transmit at least an identification code and
8 location information, and further adapted to receive tuning information. and
9 communicate the tuning information to the radio.

1 18. The location-aware mobile radio of Claim 17, wherein the location information
2 resource comprises a GPS module.

1 19. The location-aware mobile radio of Claim 18, further comprising a processor
2 coupled to the GPS module, the radio, and the transceiver; and a memory coupled
3 to at least the processor and the radio.

1 20. The location-aware mobile radio of Claim 19, further comprising an interface
2 adapted to physically and electrically couple a cellular telephone to at least the
3 processor.

1 ~~21.~~ A method of creating a database, comprising:
2 obtaining, and retrievably recording in a computer readable format,
3 information regarding a plurality of broadcast stations, including a broadcast station
4 call sign and a carrier frequency, associated with each of the plurality of broadcast
5 stations;
6 obtaining, and retrievably recording in a computer readable format, one or
7 more field strength boundaries for each broadcast station in a second plurality of
8 broadcast stations; and
9 obtaining, and retrievably recording in a computer readable format,
10 programming information for each broadcast station in third plurality of broadcast
11 stations;

12 wherein the second plurality and the third plurality of broadcast stations are
13 each at least a subset of the first plurality of broadcast stations.

1 22. The method of Claim 21, wherein each of the plurality of broadcast stations
2 comprises a transmitter operable to transmit a radio signal having a field strength
3 that varies with distance from the transmitter, and each field strength boundary
4 defines a region within which the field strength of the radio signal, with which the
5 boundary is associated, is nominally above a predetermined threshold.

1 23. The method of Claim 22, wherein the predetermined threshold is determined
2 such that the radio signal may be adequately received.

1 24. The method of Claim 22, wherein the predetermined threshold is determined
2 such that the radio signal may be received by a location-aware radio having
3 predetermined sensitivity and selectivity characteristics.

1 25. The method of Claim 21, wherein a field strength boundary includes temporal
2 limitations.

1 26. The method of Claim 22, wherein the programming information comprises
2 one or more program schedules.

1 27. The method of Claim 22, wherein the programming information comprises
2 one or more station formats.

1 28. The method of Claim 22, wherein the programming information comprises
2 one or more syndicated show schedules.

1 29. The method of Claim 22, wherein the database may be accessed so as to
2 retrieve at least broadcast station carrier frequencies based, at least in part, on the
3 logical union of a program type and radio signal field strength at a particular set of
4 geographical coordinates.

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